

Gina Mouser

From: Vernon Crawford [vacrawford@msn.com]
Sent: Wednesday, December 10, 2008 2:10 PM
To: Vernon Pickup-Crawford
Subject: Budget - Florida Senate
Attachments: 2009-10 PreK_12 Budget Recommendations (revised)Working Draft.doc; EDRadval1208.pdf; Unfunded Mandates Combined List--working draft.doc

The Florida Senate today heard a budget update from EDR coordinator Amy Baker that reaffirms last month's general revenue estimating conference. Because of the size of the over 8mb file, the URL to view and download it is at (Control/click):

http://www.flsenate.gov/data/committees/Senate/meeting_packets/WPSC.pdf

Of note:

- Florida ranked 2nd in 2002 nationally in real economic growth; it ranked 47th in 2007;
- Florida ranks #2 in filings of foreclosures and 3rd in the rate of foreclosures--Lee and Miami-Dade are hardest hit;
- The current recession began at the beginning of 2008 and projected to last through June, 2009, making it the longest and worst since the Great Depression;
- Stabilization (stopping losses) is projected between January and June, 2010 (April is target date)
- The Senate handout provides good statistical data on revenue sources and, around pages 46-47, summaries on areas such as the FEFP.

Senate President Jeff Atwater, in his opening comments, said Legislative action will be needed to deal with this year's budget. He's added appropriations meetings for next Wednesday/Thursday. House is already slated to have budget discussions both on the floor as a full group and in committee then as well. No date in January has been set yet for the special session, nor is there any really firm guess being made by anyone as to how much more K-12 will be reduced.

We met with Sen. Atwater and his chief of staff yesterday. He is open, as is Senate Education Chair Nancy Detert, to ideas for waivers, budget shifts and reduction of unfunded mandates. Following a recent email, attached are two working files....budget cut options and items that are considered unfunded mandates. Your input is requested, preferably as soon as you can get back to me...

Also attached for your information are the results of last Friday's ad valorem tax roll estimates by EDR. It's significant because of the flatline or declines shown which means schools will not have the "cavalry over the hill" effect next year to make up for falling state revenues.

Let me know if you have any questions in the meantime.

Vern
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